



March comes  
in like a lion  
Chika Umino

Chika Umino

March  
Lion

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Lion

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4514



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# "KINDA LOOKS LIKE ME"

In pursuit of the Meijin Soya, Kariyama joins Shimada's conference group.

Undergoing severe training for his battle against Soya at the Shushou Match, Shimada succumbs to the severity of his own regiment...

With his health in questionable state, Kariyama accompanies the 8-Dan Shimada to Kyoto...

A lovely story of many people, getting something back that was lost to them.

Published April 2010



[ The author's (cat) message ]



## CHIKA UMINO

Chika Umino

This is my stalker cat.

Morning noon and night, this psycho always watches me.

It watches me wherever I go. It's got huge eyes.

It stares at me while I work.

It's here right now, it follows me wherever I go in the house.

It's a good companion.



March comes in like a lion

Chika Umino

I HAVE A REASON TO FIGHT...

# BOOK 4: THE STRUGGLE

IN YAN#8  
A \*5 PIECE LION POSTCARD SET\* IS INCLUDED!

THIS COMIC CONTINUED IN YOUNG  
ANIMAL 8, ON SALE APRIL 9TH!!

Chika  
Umino

Hakusensha  
4514

## THE STORY

THE PROTAGONIST KIRYAMA SEI IS A 17 YEAR OLD PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER. WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, SEI'S PARENTS DIED, PROFOUNDLY ALONE, HE DROWNED HIS SORROWS BY PASSING HIS DAYS IN PURSUIT OF SHOGI MASTERY. DURING THIS TIME HE MEETS THE 3 SISTERS OF THE KAWAKOTO FAMILY, AND HIS HEART BEGINS TO SOFTEN.

A MANGA BY CHIKA UMINO, A TEAR JERKING LOVE STORY



IF THAT SOUNDS GOOD...  
GIVE IT A TRIAL READ HERE!!

GET EASY ACCESS WITH THE QR CODE!

LOOKS GOOD BUT I WANT TO TRY IT FIRST!!

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, GET YOUR CELL PHONE!  
YOU CAN ACCESS A TRIAL COPY OF "MARCH LION"

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SELECT THE BEST AND MOST OF EACH MONTH



ON SALE 1ST FRIED EGG MONTH



MARCH LION / CHICKA LIVING / SMO YEN

「 *March Lion* 」

Website and

Twitter online!!

**Site MP** <https://3lion.younganimal.com/>

**Twitter** [https://twitter.com/3\\_lion/](https://twitter.com/3_lion/)

March comes

*March Lion* ● Chika Umino

in like a lion

Chika Umino

March  
Lion

Illustrated by  
Chika Umino

●

Chika  
Umino

白泉社

白泉社

FOR THE 1-02-2020

1-02-2020

1-02-2020

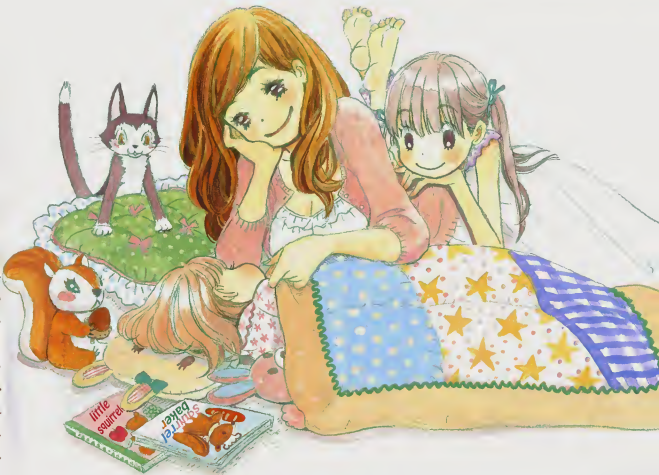




# MARCH LION

March comes in like a lion  
 Goes down like a lion





*M  
a  
r  
c  
h  
L  
i  
o  
n*

March starts in June & June  
ends in March

\*  
c  
h  
i  
k  
a  
u  
m  
i  
n  
o

4



|                                        |     |
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Chapter 33

*midway up the hill*



WHAT IS IT?

HEY!



Mina's special polka dot flower painting

GOOD, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE HIM WITH THE DEARER PORTION WE'LL MEET THE CROCOD!

HERE THERE ARE THE FINISHED ONES

OH! SORRY!

OH NO GRANDPA! DON'T LET THE CATS IN!

ON TOP OF THAT, THIS IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL WORK WHA!

First attempt with a stencil!!



LET THEM SELL  
CUTTY I HAVE  
THE STENCIL. I  
CAN MAKE A  
SPECIAL SUPER  
COLORFUL ONE  
FOR MYSELF  
LATER.

SO IT'LL BE FINE  
WHETHER WE HAVE  
LEFTOVERS OR  
NOT, RIGHT?

A "SPECIAL COMBO  
BOX" FOR THE  
GIRL'S DAY  
FESTIVAL. WAS A  
GOOD IDEA. I  
WANTED TO GIVE  
THE LEFTOVERS,  
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE  
THERE WILL BE  
NONE LEFT...

I'M ALSO  
WE CAN  
FILL THE  
ORDERS! I'M  
SO HAPPY!

IT'S GOOD  
WE'RE  
GETTING SO  
MANY  
ORDERS.

YOUR  
PORTION  
WAS SPOT  
ON, HINA!

LET'S SELL ALL THE  
REMAINERS AT A  
DISCOUNT!  
I'M REALLY GETTING THE  
HANG OF STENCILING

NEXT TIME  
I'LL COME  
UP WITH  
SOMETHING  
EVEN CUTTER!

I'LL BE REALLY  
AID IF THESE  
COMBO BOXES  
DON'T SELL  
WELL.

I'D BE  
REALLY  
HAPPY TO  
GET ONE OF  
THESE

BUT HINA, THESE  
GIRL'S FESTIVAL  
JAPANESE  
SWEETS ARE  
SUPER CUTE!



well pull

INARI  
SUSHI!

SO THEN,  
WHAT SHOULD WE DO  
AT OUR HOUSE FOR  
BOL'S BIRTHDAY  
THIS  
YEAR?

☆



I'LL MAKE  
SOME HEAVENLY  
PLATEFUL,  
AND SOME  
OTHERS  
WHICH WILL  
DO WELL  
WITH IT

I'LL MAKE SOME TOO...

I'LL MAKE SOME TOO...

OH,

HINA  
WANTS  
INARI  
SUSHI  
TOO...

SUSHI!  
INARI  
SUSHI!

DON'T YOU  
USUALLY  
HAVE STUFF  
LIKE  
CHICKEN  
SUSHI FOR  
BOL'S DAD?

HEH...

WE HAVE THE BEST



I love eating  
sweet but  
also hot  
Inari Inari  
Sushi!!

I want to  
eat Inari  
sushi right  
now!!

SO SWEET  
AND HOT,  
STUFFED WITH  
CHOPPED  
LOTUS ROOT,

WHY IS  
INARI  
SUSHI SO  
TASTY?

EGG AND  
MILK  
POACH...

...MILK...





This time, Rel is invited to play at Shimada's reference.



This time they play at Shimada's own house.

Though he knew this sort of conference existed...



This is the first time going to one like this and nerves are high.





It's often  
better than  
nothing.  
It's all the  
something.

is a very good  
idea, to a point  
beyond which  
more, it shows  
it is not a  
solution.

You will say it  
I will say it

Following your  
visit, participants  
are on spring  
break for very  
early birds...

What do you call the "Elderly Thing" status code upon you getting? Isn't that the epitome of attention strategy?

What are  
your feelings  
about  
this?



100

THANK I SUPPOSE. BUT  
COMMON SENSE TELLS ME  
WOULD BE TO TRY TO CONVINCE  
ME. IF ALL YOU CAN DO IS  
REACT. HARRIS TOLD US  
HEM TO TAKE ME TO A COURT  
FOR THE PROSECUTOR.

When you play  
Stereomaster, it makes  
stereo sound like it  
should. It's the sound the  
music is the music of  
Stereomaster. Stereo is  
the sound of the future.

COME ON, CAN WE  
STOP THIS?

AT THIS RATE  
YOUR AGREEMENT  
WILL STRETCH TO  
THE END OF THE  
UNIVERSE AND  
BACK.

100



REALLY? I don't  
make me laugh! why  
don't you try that  
against me in a  
game?

2

to take the  
chance on it-it  
is more in  
line with  
static and  
playing safe.  
it's more  
refined!!

Concise!  
Kirigane  
makes a  
good point!  
but using the  
Glove on it!

what? Oh, then  
what if I don't?  
I'll promote my right  
hand forward, but  
my Glove forward  
on it!!

I'll put your knight  
with my other  
Glove and the  
game is as good as  
mine isn't it?

3

You best be ready you  
don't win't right?  
I can't though it means I  
got to use the Glove  
with you again!

AND YOU  
ALL  
LOOK  
VERY  
ANGRY.

I KNOW  
YOU'RE  
ALL  
FIRED  
UP!

U-LA...

AND?

I  
AM?

☆



THE TELL  
SIGNS ARE  
COMING UP.  
IT'S  
POSSIBLE  
THE  
PROBLEMS  
IS GETTING  
TO HIM.

I HOPE  
HE  
FEELS  
BETTER  
SOON...

HE TAKES  
GOOD  
CARE OF  
HIMSELF.  
IT'S NOT  
LIKE HIM  
FOR HIS  
HEALTH  
TO FAIL HIM.

HE'S NOT  
SOMEONE  
WHO  
USUALLY  
GETS  
SICK.

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HIM?

I WONDER  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING.  
SAYING  
HIS  
STOMACH  
HURT  
SUDDENLY  
LIKE THAT.

I WONDER  
IF HE'S  
OK?



**ROO**

GOD YOUR CHANCES,  
YOU'RE STILL GOING ON  
ABOUT THAT!

with the  
4-7  
Silver in the  
last round

I am my  
taking the  
23-0  
Silver

but:

**1000**

**DAR**

BUT 4-7 FOR THE  
SILVER IS OBVIOUSLY  
WRONG!  
SHOGI SHOULD BE  
PLAYED IN THE  
TRADITIONAL WAY!

IS IT IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR YOU GO  
ANYWHERE  
QUETLY?!

COME! ON!  
MOVING THE SILVER  
TO 4-7 INSTEAD  
OF 3-7

THE ENEMY CAN  
NO LONGER MAKE  
ANY SOUND  
JUDGEMENTS!!

**ploop**

IS THIS WHY YOU  
FOLLOWED ME?  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH  
YOU?!

BUT  
WE'RE  
ALREADY AT  
MY HOUSE  
AREN'T WE?

Oh yeah! Let's go  
TO YOUR PLACE!  
KRYAMMA! WE CAN  
TALK ABOUT THIS  
SOME MORE!!

Wait-  
You  
Again?

**quack quack**

I'D SHOW  
YOU WHY MY  
REASONING  
IS RIGHT!

DAMN, IF  
ONLY I HAD  
A BOARD  
WITH ME.





SERIOUSLY?  
HOW LONG  
ARE BIRDS  
SUPPOSED  
TO STAY  
UNDERWATER  
?!

THAT BIRD  
THAT DIVE  
UNDER  
HASNT  
SURFACED  
YET?!

HEY, THAT BIRD  
THAT WENT UNDER,  
SHOULDN'T IT  
HAVE COME UP BY  
NOW?!

CAN IT  
BREATHE  
?!  
HEY, IS  
IT OK?!

WHY  
ISN'T  
IT  
BACK  
?!

I'M  
SCARED  
!

YOU  
DON'T  
THINK A  
FISH

I GUESS  
THEY NEED  
THIS SORT  
OF THING.

GUESS  
THAT'S  
BECAUSE  
IT'S A  
RIVERSIDE  
TOWN!

AH! THERE IT IS!  
RIGHT BY THE  
CASH REGISTER!!

AQUATIC BIRDS  
HANDBOOK

BOOKS

Besides, I read what it says: "Wingspan: 92-105cm." It wasn't that big, was it?

WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID? THE ONE FROM BEFORE HAD DARK FEATHERS!

IT WAS THAT ONE RIGHT?

THERE ARE SO MANY! WHICH IS THE ONE WE SAW EARLIER?

DAMN ...



YEAH!

YOU GOT IT, KIRIYAMA!!

DAMN IT ALL!! I'LL FIGURE OUT WHO YOU ARE!

YEAH!

BACK TO THE RIVERBANK!!

LET'S GET A SECOND LOOK AT ONE!!

OK!!

Chapter 34

Silver Thread









WHEN IT'S MY TURN TO  
TAKE A SEAT  
I HOPE THE CROWD IS  
JUST AS BIG.

IT'S SOOOO  
TO BE OUT  
HERE AND  
GET A  
TASTE OF  
WHAT IT'S  
LIKE.

BUT

IT'S A  
SOOOO  
THING  
THERE'S  
SUCH A BIG  
TURNOUT.



DON'T SAY  
THAT SO  
CASUALLY! LET  
ALONE LIKE  
IT'S ALREADY  
DECIDED!

We're  
only at  
and it's  
right  
now!

WHAT?!

I MEAN WHEN  
IT'S MY TURN TO  
CHALLENGE FOR  
THE TITLE, OF  
COURSE.

AND  
WHAT  
SEAT  
ARE WE  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

twinkle



It's  
GONNA  
HAPPEN.

I'M GONNA  
GET MY  
SHOT AT  
THE TITLE.

IT'LL  
COME.

Looking at Nikaido's face as he said it



shook me up a lot



While I was spinning my gears

He, the same age as me,



Dad already found his resolve



OH YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT BEING AS YOUNG AS HE IS, THERE'S NOTHING WORTH SPENDING MONEY ON AT HIS AGE ANYHOW.

REI ISN'T THAT SORT OF BOY.

JUST IMAGINE ALL THE DERAUCHADY THIS KID COULD GET INVOLVED IN WITH A WEALTHY BENEFACTOR LIKE YOU IN HIS CORNER!

WHO CARES, KODAP? KEEP PAYING FOR THE KID!

DRUMS  
X  
TELLING

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
ALL NG!!

CHAIRMAN

Ack!

Squeeze

BAM

CHAIRMAN, PLEASE LEAVE US FOR A MINUTE.

Isn't that right? What the hell's going on? huh? King's castle?

WHAT ABOUT A GIRL? THE KID'S NEVER GOING TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD A PROPER SPOILED GIRLFRIEND LIKE THIS?

POOR KID CAN'T ENJOY THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE, AND HE'S DIRTY POOR TO BOOT!

UGH!

Little Squirt!

UNTIL YOU BECOME AN ADULT I WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR YOU, IF YOU EVER NEED HELP JUST ASK.

WHAT WELL, THE CHAIRMAN SAID WASN'T WRONG.



And what would happen to Kyoko?

But if father knew...

I should tell him.

What do I do?



Is there anything I could even do?



I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS INSIDE A HOTEL

OH WOW, A COURTYARD

...



A POND  
...

Have  
to  
separate

Why do  
dad and  
Kyoko's  
paths

though  
they're  
both

so  
alike

Even  
though  
I  
know  
it'll  
break  
them  
apart.











HEY,  
KIRYAMA!

IF YOU  
WANT TO  
GET UP  
CLOSE,  
COME WITH  
ME.



Y-  
YEAH  
!

COMING

COME ON  
WE'RE  
GOING,

COME  
ALONG,  
KIRYAMA!



Breath  
away..

That  
took  
my



He had no  
presence..



From the time I laid eyes on him,

LIKE HE  
WAS  
FROZEN  
IN TIME...



HE'S  
ALWAYS  
LOOKED  
THE  
SAME

All the sound in the world disappeared



"He's not human"  
someone whispered from the  
depths of my memory



The moment he left

The sky broke

And it began raining bullets



Shinoda's  
gone.



Face  
that  
man?

...

Maich comes in like a lion

Chico Umine

MANABU SENZAKI'S

written by  
manabu senzaki\*

## LION SHOGI COLUMN 1

N  
a  
t  
i  
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e  
☆

"The Lion's Game" is a good name for it. Although it's been referred to in many ways, when it comes to describing the title match there's no better name for it.

The title match of the series is the ultimate battle in the world of shogi. Determining the location of such a match is a big challenge. There's been a big upgrade in terms of facilities; nowadays they are held in first-class hotels and inns in Sendagaya, whereas 30 years ago they were held in any little small place.

Perhaps the model in such facilities for matches of the Lions Game is the "Chinzansou" venue in Meuro. It is a luxury hotel, said to be the first in a series of three. The last two grand masters of the game have been crowned at this location.

That being said, the title fight doesn't always take place in Tokyo. In fact, finding players in Tokyo is kind of a rare thing. There are many matches all across the country. Since many newspapers now sponsor the matches, maybe that's why so many tournaments have been cropping up all over the place. Sometimes matches even take place abroad. Large cities across the world like Paris, London, and New York have hosted tournaments in recent years. There have even been matches in China. Although it's rare, there have even been tournaments held in various temples across the country, like the Hiyama Enryakuji temple, and Todaiji Temple - temples with lots of historical significance.

But of course, getting to the venue doesn't guarantee that there will be a match. Sometimes plans are cancelled last minute. This is a very tough situation to deal with. Sometimes it's sponsors that cancel out the second in a series of tournaments, as happened at the "Juya" tournament which took place in Kanagawa prefecture. And then there are folks who don't take the title fight seriously, so you always must go into battle expecting that there's a risk of cancellation.

\*note: Manabu Senzaki is a famous Japanese shogi player who is written books on the subject. He still competes in shogi championships to this day.



It was a bizzare sight,



When he entered the arena,



It fell dead silent.



The sea of people split down the middle

At 15, he became a pro, while still in middle school



At 21, he became the youngest Meijin in history, and then,



He overturned all the Shogi records, one after another.



Becoming the first in history to hold all seven major titles simultaneously.

Without  
fading,  
without  
dulling,  
without  
any  
corruption  
...



And then  
for decades  
he held the  
titles,  
undefeated.  
His  
appearance  
never  
changing.



With  
overwhelming  
power, he  
stepped up  
silently,  
remaining  
the way  
he's always  
been.



HEY,

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.



For  
someone  
to appear  
like god,  
like he  
does,

"Then,"



As  
someone  
said,



That  
would be  
the face  
the devil  
would  
choose to  
wear."

"THERE  
ARE  
TWO."



AT THE END  
OF THE  
PRE-MATCH  
CELEBRATION  
THE NIGHT  
BEFORE,  
SHIMADA  
SAID.



I  
HAVE  
TO  
MEET.

THERE  
ARE  
TWO  
CONDITIONS

TO WIN  
AGAINST  
THAT  
MONSTER



IS IN MY  
HOMETOWN.

THE  
SIXTH  
MATCH



Shimada Title  
Match Schedule:

|                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| March 1: March 1-4 Japan's Match (Friday)     |
| March 2: March 10-11 Miyuki Kuroki (Saturday) |
| March 3: March 19-20 Zenzo Kuroki (Sunday)    |
| March 4: March 25-26 Kuroki and (Monday)      |
| March 5: April 1-2 Kuroki and (Tuesday)       |
| March 6: April 8-10 Kuroki and (Wednesday)    |
| March 7: April 15-17 Kuroki and (Thursday)    |





AS I  
SAID IN  
RESPONSE  
TO YOUR  
EMAIL,

I HAVEN'T  
SAID A  
THING.

YOU TOLD  
DAD  
SOMETHING  
DIDN'T YOU?



BUT PUTTING THE  
FACT I KEPT  
YOUR SECRET  
ASIDE, ISN'T THIS  
YOU HAVING TO  
DEAL WITH THE  
CONSEQUENCES  
OF YOUR OWN  
CHOICES?

I  
TOLD  
YOU,  
I  
HAVEN'T  
SAID  
ANYTHING

WHAT AM I  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO  
NOW?!

HE STOPPED MY  
CREDIT CARD, AND  
HE'S BEEN ASKING  
ME ALL SORTS  
OFFENSIVE  
QUESTIONS!

THIS IS  
ALL  
YOUR  
FAULT!

WHAT  
DOES THAT  
HAVE TO  
DO WITH  
ANYTHING.

WHERE DO  
YOU GET OFF  
ACTING  
SUPERIOR?!

HUH?  
CONSEQUENCES  
OF MY OWN  
CHOICES?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?!

ALL YOU DO  
IS WHINE AND  
SUCK AT  
SHOGI.









HOW  
DISGUSTING.



MAKING  
OTHERS  
TAKE CARE  
OF YOU?

STILL  
CAN'T SET  
YOUR ACT  
TOGETHER  
?

Why is it,



That bothered me so much it made my chest pound.

Rei's face, white as a stone,



A face he never showed us.

And then,



Not once looking in our direction,



IT'S GOT  
LOTS OF EGG  
AND SESAME  
SEEDS IN IT,

I MADE  
THESE  
WITH MY  
SISTER,

IT'S SWEET  
AND  
DELICIOUS,





THANK  
YOU...

.....

AND WHAT'S REI'S  
PROBLEM?!  
HE COULD HAVE SAID A  
MILLION THINGS TO SHUT  
HER DOWN AND STAYED  
SILENT!

WHAT'S HER  
PROBLEM?  
SHE PISSES  
ME OFF!!

COME  
ON REI!

HINA,  
YOU SHOULDN'T  
SAY THAT.

"PISSES  
ME OFF"  
ISN'T  
LADYLIKE

That  
woman  
is evil,  
I swear  
it!!

AKARI!  
LET'S GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!!



.....  
WELL

YOU AGREE  
WITH ME,  
RIGHT AKAZI?



I  
AGREE



RIGHT  
?!

A  
LITTLE,  
A  
LITTLE,  
☆



MARCH LION



**MARCH LION**

March lion  
March lion







# MARCH LION

MARCH LION ga tate ni iku  
©2015 Shueisha

SWEET!

WHAT  
THE  
HELL?

WHAT AM I  
SUPPOSED TO DO IF I  
GET FAT?!

OH NO!  
THE  
FLAVOR'S  
SO  
STRANGE  
I CAN'T  
STOP  
EATING  
THEM.

BLEEH!  
TOO SWEET!

IT ISN'T  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
CANDY!

WHAT  
DO YOU  
EXPECT  
ME TO  
DO  
ABOUT  
IT?

I SEE. I GUESS  
IT DOES HAVE  
SOME WASABI  
INSIDE AFTER  
ALL...

AH









AKARI, IS ACTUALLY  
NOT THAT MUCH  
OLDER THAN HER  
YOUNGER SISTERS  
AS A MATTER OF  
FACT...

HUH  
?!

THE LITTLE  
GIRL IS  
HER LITTLE  
SISTER,  
YOU KNOW  
THAT  
RIGHT?

SO  
SHE'S  
CALLED  
AKARI  
HUH?

HOLSEWIFE  
...

THE  
THREE  
OF THEM  
ARE  
SISTERS.

HUUUUH  
?!

OH ARE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT  
AKARI?

W  
H  
A  
A  
A  
A  
T  
?!



I REALLY  
AM AT  
REI'S  
HOUSE.  
DO YOU  
HAVE A  
PROBLEM  
WITH  
THAT?

I  
TOLD  
YOU!

I'M  
OVER  
AT  
REI'S  
PLACE

THE MIDDLE  
SCHOOLER,  
OR HER  
NO-SISTER?

SO...  
WHICH DO  
YOU LIKE  
BETTER.

YOU'RE  
LYING!

WHICH  
WHY ARE WE  
TALKING ABOUT  
THIS? NEITHER, NOT  
THAT IT MATTERS.

IF YOU  
KEEP  
TALKING  
TO ME  
LIKE THAT  
I JUST  
WON'T  
CALL  
FROM NOW  
ON!!

SO THE  
KINDERGARDEN  
?!

YOU  
PERVERT  
!!

GET OUT  
OF MY  
HOUSE!!



WHY

DID GAO  
CHOOSE  
HIM  
ANYWAY?

HOW COULD  
I POSSIBLY  
INTRODUCE  
HIM?

HE'S  
WAY  
OVER  
20,

NOT TO  
MENTION  
MARRIED,

OH YEAH,  
YOU'VE MET  
RIGHT, BEING  
HE'S YOUR  
APPRENTICE  
AND ALL?

WHO  
KNOWS,

I'D LIKE  
TO KNOW  
TOO.

IF I WAS  
REALLY  
A WITCH,

I  
WOULDN'T BE  
STUCK WITH  
THESE  
PATHETIC  
PROBLEMS

THE  
PRE-SCHOOLER  
KEPT CALLING ME A  
"WITCH" OR  
SOMETHING I  
THINK.





WHAT  
DO I  
DO?

HEY,

HEL

I'M

SCARED



OVER  
LAND  
OVER  
ALL  
NIGHT

THE  
FAINT  
LED  
GLOW  
OF  
HER  
FINGER,

IN  
THE  
MIDDLE  
OF  
THE  
NIGHT  
THAT  
NIGHT

ILLUMINATED  
THE  
OUTLINE  
OF  
HER  
BODY

My  
ROOM  
DYED  
BLUE.

THE  
TWO  
OF  
US  
SUNKEN  
AT THE  
BOTTOM  
OF  
A  
DEEP  
OCEAN.

JUST  
SAID  
WHAT  
I MEANT  
AT  
DARK



THE  
NIGHT,



WAS  
FELT  
LIKE  
WE  
WERE  
STONES,  
SINKING  
TO THE  
BOTTOM  
OF  
THE  
SEA.

"OK"  
WERE  
THE  
ONLY  
WORDS  
I  
COULD  
GET  
TO  
COME  
TO  
MY  
LIPS.



SHE SAID,

"I'LL SEE YOU  
LATER"

IT  
BROUGHT  
TO  
MIND  
THE  
MEMORY,



ON  
THE  
DAY  
I  
LEFT  
HOME.

IF ONLY THE TWO OF US

COULD STAY LIKE THIS

WITHOUT ANYTHING CHANGING,

WITH NOTHING TO CHANGE US.



OH, IT'S  
OK.

SORRY

I'M LATE!

HEHE

DID YOU  
RUN  
HERE?

TO  
REMAIN AS  
SIBLINGS,  
WITHOUT  
HAVING TO  
BECOME  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT  
PEOPLE



I GUESS  
THIS MAKES  
FOR A  
"SLIMMER  
OF HOPE"  
AS THEY  
SAY

THOUGH I  
ONLY MADE  
IT BY THE  
BREATH OF  
AN EYELASH,

I'm so  
proud  
of you

I'M JUST  
GLAD NO  
ONE GOT  
ANY BAD  
NEWS THIS  
TIME

Yes  
well,

I MYSELF  
MANAGED TO  
MAINTAIN MY  
A RANK.

Heh? Why is  
everyone  
turning  
away?

Breath  
of an  
eyelash

The  
weight  
of his  
words

OH SHISETA,  
CONGRATULATIONS ON  
MAINTAINING YOUR RANK!  
OH MAN I'M ALL AFLUTTER!

YOUR  
VOICE  
AND  
YOUR  
EGO ARE  
OFF THE  
CHARTS.

IN A LITTLE BIT, YOU AND I  
WILL BE IN THE SAME  
☆ CLASS AT THIS DATE!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU  
DEFERRING TO THE SAME  
WORLD THE REST OF US  
ARE LIVING IN?  
IF YOU'VE GOT  
SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME  
WHY DON'T YOU SAY IT?

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE  
DAY WE FACE OFF AGAINST  
EACH OTHER,  
RIVAL OF MINE!

I FINALLY  
CAUGHT UP TO  
YOU,  
KIRIYAMA!

AS HE SAID THAT TO ME,  
NIKAI'DO'S FACE GLEAMED,  
HIS EYES SHINING.

GLIMMERING LIKE THE  
RIVER'S SURFACE IN  
THE EARLY MORNING.

YEAH,

I  
GUESS  
SO.



NEXT  
MONTH  
I'LL BE  
18.

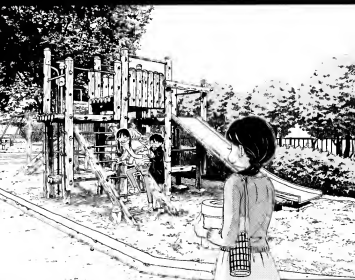


ENTERING  
INTO

JUNIOR  
YEAR  
ONE  
YEAR  
BEHIND.



ANOTHER  
SPRING BEGINS,  
PLANTS AGAIN  
BLOSSOMING IN THE  
MORNING. NOTHING IS  
DIFFERENT.



*Chapter 37*

*Torment*



Huh? What's that?

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE ONE TO TALK SHIGETA,  
YOU TALK A BIG GAME,  
BUT YOU WOULD SPEND ALL YOUR TIME  
CHECKING AND CONFIRMING THE CONDITIONS  
UNTIL A SNIPER PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD,  
THE END.  
☆

I AM  
LOOKING AT  
THE PAWN  
ON 7-4  
THOUGH.

HAVE  
YOU  
FORGOTTEN  
I TOOK  
OUT  
YOUR  
BISHOP  
ALREADY?

IF YOU LET  
YOUR BISHOP  
GET TAKEN  
YOU'RE GONNA  
BE IN  
TROUBLE.  
☆

6-1 IS  
WIDE  
OPEN  
RIGHT  
NOW!

No  
way

ESPECIALLY  
NOT THE  
BLACK PAWN  
AT 7-4

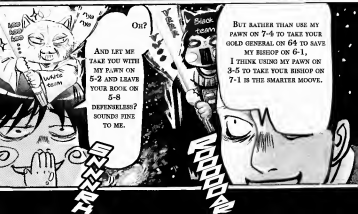
HITTING MY  
BISHOP DOESN'T  
HELP YOU HERE,  
DOES IT?

SO, WHY  
NOT GO  
WITH THE  
BLACK  
PAWN AT  
7-4?

I'M  
TELLING  
YOU!

THE BLACK  
BISHOP AT  
6-1 IS GONNA  
GET TAKEN BY  
THE WHITE  
PAWN AT 5-2

IF YOU EVER WENT TO  
WAR YOU'D BE THE  
TYPE TO OVER DEPLOY  
YOUR MEN AND GET  
YOURSELF KILLED,  
HUH?



Oh?

AND LET ME  
TAKE YOU WITH  
MY PAWN ON  
5-2 AND LEAVE  
YOUR ROOK ON  
5-8  
DEFENSELESS?  
SOUNDS FINE  
TO ME.

BUT RATHER THAN USE MY  
PAWN ON 7-4 TO TAKE YOUR  
GOLD GENERAL ON 6-4 TO SAVE  
MY BISHOP ON 6-1,  
I THINK USING MY PAWN ON  
3-5 TO TAKE YOUR BISHOP ON  
7-1 IS THE SMARTER MOVE.

[illegible]

**HUH? YOU?**

**YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ARE YOU?**

**APPROACH MY GOLD GENERAL WHEN YOU WANT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PAPER ON T-4?**

**OK THEN WHAT? I TAKE YOUR GOLD GENERAL ON 6-4 WITH MY BISHOP ON 6-1?**

**VRRRROOOON**

**GOLD**

**WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY WORDS, THE PICTURE GETS LOST.**

**WATATATA**

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ARE YOU?

HUH? YOU?

APPROACH MY GOLD GENERAL WHEN YOU WANT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PAWN ON 7-4?

OK, THEN WHAT? I TAKE YOUR GOLD GENERAL ON 6-4 WITH MY BISHOP ON 6-1?

VERRRRROOOAN

GOLD

WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY WORDS, THE PICTURE GETS LOST.

WHATATATATAT

Huh? You?

APPROACH MY GOLD GENERAL WHEN YOU WANT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE FAWN ON T-4?

OKE THEN WHATIF I TAKE YOUR GOLD GENERAL ON G-4 WITH MY BISHOP ON G-1?

VRRRROOOOAN  
GOLD

WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY WORDS THE PICTURE GETS LOST.

WHATATATA

Huh? You?

APPROACH MY GOLD GENERAL WHEN YOU WANT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PAWN ON F-4?

OKE THEN WHATIF I TAKE YOUR GOLD GENERAL ON G-4 WITH MY BISHOP ON G-1?

VRRRROOOOAN

GOLD

WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY WORDS, THE PICTURE GETS LOST.

WHATATAZ

HOW ABOUT  
THE PAWN ON  
5-6?

WHAT, DO  
YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
SAY ABOUT  
THAT TOO?

IF YOU LET ME TAKE  
YOUR PAWN ON 5-2  
YOU'RE GIVING ME  
THE GAME!

HOW ABOUT TAKING  
THE PAWN ON 7-4  
WITH THE BISHOP ON  
4-7?

OH DEAR, WHAT CAN  
YOU DOOOOO?

Good  
can you  
not cut  
out all  
that  
silly  
stuff?

How about the pawn on 5-6?

What, do you have something to say about that too?

Good, you're not out of all that with your shiny sword!

BUATATATATATA

If you let me take your pawn on 5-2 you're giving me the game!

How about taking the pawn on 7-4 with the bishop on 4-7? Oh dear, what can you dooooo?

HOW ABOUT  
THE PAWN ON  
5-6?

WHAT, DO  
YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
SAY ABOUT  
THAT TOO?

IF YOU LET ME TAKE  
YOUR PAWN ON 5-2  
YOU'RE GIVING ME  
THE GAME!

HOW ABOUT TAKING  
THE PAWN ON 7-4  
WITH THE BISHOP ON  
4-7?

OH DEAR, WHAT CAN  
YOU DOOOOO?

*Good  
can you  
not cut  
out all  
that  
silly  
stuff?*

HOW ABOUT  
THE PAWN ON  
5-6?

WHAT, DO  
YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING TO  
SAY ABOUT  
THAT TOO?

IF YOU LET ME TAKE  
YOUR PAWN ON 5-2  
YOU'RE GIVING ME  
THE GAME!

HOW ABOUT TAKING  
THE PAWN ON 7-4  
WITH THE BISHOP ON  
4-7?  
OH DEAR, WHAT CAN  
YOU DOOOOO?

Good  
can you  
not cut  
out all  
that  
silly  
stuff?

How about the pawn on 5-6?

What, do you have something to say about that too?

Good, you're not out of all that with your shiny sword!

BUATATATATATA

If you let me take your pawn on 5-2 you're giving me the game!

How about taking the pawn on 7-4 with the bishop on 4-7? Oh dear, what can you dooooo?





...  
A WRENCHING  
FEELING?

UM...  
HOW TO  
SAY IT...

I WANT  
TO SAY,  
"IT GIVES  
ME A  
WRENCHING  
IN MY  
STOMACH!"

OR  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.

UM,  
HOW  
TO  
EXPLAIN  
IT...

UM,

CAN YOU  
BE CLEAR  
FOR  
ONCE?

WHAT IS  
SO  
WRONG  
ABOUT  
MY  
STRATEGY  
HERE?

WHAT?!

DON'T JUST  
DISMISS THE  
FIRMIST KIRIYAMA,  
THIS IS SUPPOSED  
TO BE A STUDY  
GROUP, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S THE  
WHOLE POINT OF  
RESEARCH, COMING  
UP WITH THEORIES  
BEFORE THEY COME  
UP IN A REAL  
GAME...

BUT MAN, I  
WOULD WANT  
TO AVOID AR-  
RIVING AT THIS  
POINT AS MUCH  
AS POSSIBLE...



HEY

PUT MY  
CACTUS  
BACK  
DOWN.



OR SHALL I  
STIMULATE  
YOUR SPEECH  
CENTER FOR  
YOU?

SAY IT  
DAMN  
IT!!



"WRENCHING"? KIRIYAMA, I THINK YOUR  
ABSTRACT WAY OF SPEAKING SHOWS HOW  
BRILLIANT YOU ARE, BUT THAT'S TOO VAGUE  
EVEN FOR ME.



HAHAHA  
...  
WELL,  
HOW  
DO I  
PUT  
IT?

WELL THE SILVER  
ON 3-7 IS STILL  
LEFT THERE,  
THAT ALONE IS  
ENOUGH TO MAKE  
ME FEEL BAD  
ABOUT THIS...

WELL,  
FIRSTLY  
...

BUT  
YOU  
CAN  
DO  
IT,

NOW

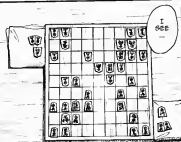
SO  
ON.

THIS IS A  
STUDY  
GROUP SO  
YOU HAVE  
TO  
EXPLAIN  
YOURSELF  
MORE.

SORRY  
RYOMA,

I KNOW  
YOU'VE BEEN  
PRACTISING  
ALONE UP  
UNTIL NOW,  
SO THIS  
ISN'T WHAT  
YOU'RE  
USED TO...

USING THE  
BLACK PAWN  
ON 7-4  
SEEMS LIKE  
THE ONLY  
LOGICAL  
CHOICE TO  
MAKE RIGHT  
NOW...



I  
SEE  
...

YEAH, I WAS  
AT THE SAME  
REALIZATION AS  
THE STRAINED  
BUN OVER  
THERE AT  
FIRST.

YOU SAY THERE'S A  
FLAW?  
NO WAY, WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING ABOUT?



STRAINED  
BUN?!  
WHAT'S YOUR  
PROBLEM,  
ASSHOLE?!

Ah, you're  
both so  
concerned,  
that's how  
a while.

YOU WANNA  
STAY OUTSIDE?  
GLADLY!



A  
WRENCHING  
FEELING  
...

Oh.

I  
SEE.







THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS I HAVE TO CHOOSE

THEN THE CITY MATCH WILL BE IN MY HOMETOWN

UM,  
YOUR HOMETOWN?

NOW I WISH I HADN'T RAMBLED ON ABOUT

MY HOMETOWN ...

IF I CAN JUST AVOID LOSING EVERY MATCH ...

I CAN ONLY LOSE ONE MORE GAME, IT'S ALREADY DO-OR-DIE ...



YES, BUT THE YIELD HAS GONE DOWN,

WELL IF THERE'S FARMLAND, THAT'S SOMETHING.

THERE'S MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, LOTS OF FARMLAND

PRETTY MUCH NOTHING'S OUT THERE.

WELL, IT'S NOTHING BUT SNOW.

WHAT'S IT LIKE IN YAMASATA?

YEAH, YAMASATA.

NOWADAYS THE FARMLAND IS ALL ...

AND WHEN IT ISN'T SNOWING?





IF I THINK  
ABOUT IT,  
THIS IS THE  
FIRST TIME

**THE**  
**FELL**  
**WINE COMPANY**

IT'S  
LIKE A  
MUDDY  
RIVER

# REALLY

2007  
2008  
2009

THE  
DO  
YOU  
KNOW

2000

BUT, IF YOU  
FIND  
YOURSELF  
CAUGHT IN  
IT'S SHOW

YOU'LL  
DROWN  
FOR  
SURE.

100

1000

**EWING**

1000 1000000



1000



4-3

get



## HAZK

cover

**SP  
LASH** CO.



BETWEEN THE  
TWO OF US  
THAT'S ONE  
THING I CAN  
TAKE  
COMFORT  
THAT WE HAVE  
IN COMMON

I- NO, WE ARE  
PROFESSIONALS



MYSELF,  
STILL  
BELIEVING  
I HAD  
"SOMETHING  
TO OFFER"  
IF ONLY A  
LITTLE

TOLD HIM  
I WANTED  
HIM TO  
LET ME  
INTO HIS  
PRACTICE  
GROUP.



AT  
THE  
TIME

SHIMADA  
SAID I HAD  
"SOMETHING HE  
COULD USE TO  
HIS ADVANTAGE"  
WHEN HE INVITED  
ME TO JOIN HIM.



SO,



UNTIL  
I CAN  
SET THE  
ANSWER.



G  
A  
S  
P



"THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
I  
WANT  
TO  
ASK  
THIS  
GUY."



THAT  
DAY  
IT  
STUCK  
IN  
MY  
MIND

The next day Shimada set off for Tokushima



FOR  
DEAR  
LIFE,  
AT ALL  
COSTS

ALL I  
CAN  
DO IS  
HOLD  
ON

To raise the curtain on round 3 of the Shishiou Title match

There are many ways to study the multitude of shogi techniques. There are two basic techniques to achieving victory: "Tsumeshogi"† and the "Kifu Pairing"‡. Although these two are the most basic, there are a number of "mating problems" that players take advantage of in order to secure victory. From a mathematical point of view, there are some interesting shogi problems that many folks like to study.

For professional players, though, any kind of victory will do. As the level of your opponent increases, at some point in your career you do need to study battle techniques.

And that is how the "research" groups for shogi came into being. In it, many players practice playing the game, taking careful notes on the various piece positions and strategies that can be exploited to secure a victory. Often times the parameters during these sessions change - such as finding methods by which you can win in the fewest number of moves, or by securing victory by exploring certain maneuvers with certain pieces. Often times the study groups are in sets of four players, but lately it has been popular to play "base" style, with just two players involved. That is where the current naming convention of Player vs. XX has come into being.

Since the concept of such research areas began, they have been packed with many young people, all looking to make a name for themselves by discovering new techniques. The research clinics last between 10 days and a month at a time, all packed full of younger players. And the number of private research groups have been increasing all over the place, despite the exclusive nature of their study.

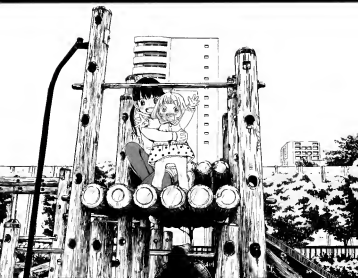
Of course, the groups have developed a name for themselves too. Often times members will proudly display the member of the research groups they are associated with (such as the Manabu Senzaki Group), to promote the name in the field. Groups that meet on Mondays might reflect that in their name as well, by putting the word "Moon" somewhere in the group title. The number of research groups is dizzying. Lately groups have developed blogs to discuss their findings, and these blogs have become closely tied in prestige to the groups who run them. Some research clinics are so organized that they rent office space for meet ups, and to host prestigious events and fan gatherings (Like the Kaji Group).

It's natural for there to be some noise when a large gathering of young people join together, but it's a bit out of place during shogi meet ups. Nevertheless, it's a common phenomenon - and after the research groups the members do often go out drinking or to enjoy other forms of entertainment. Not the kind of behavior you'd expect from people carrying out "serious research", but maybe the lighthearted nature of it isn't such a bad thing.

T  
h  
e  
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a  
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?  
B  
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e  
?

\*Tsumeshogi is a famous shogi problem, wherein the goal is to checkmate the opponent's king.

†Kifu-Monsho is a method of play by recordkeeping, where you win by the number of successful moves you achieve before checkmating the opponent's king.



Chapter 38

*Passing Time*



WELL YEAH, YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT IT OVER AND OVER ALL YEAR LONG.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE OTHERS ARE PLANNING A FAREWELL PARTY OVER AT HOUSELAND AMUSEMENT PARK,

DID YOU KNOW

OF COURSE I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

THIS IS WONDERFUL FORGOTTEN

Dear Friend  
It's Super  
Houseland  
Farewell Party

HAS OWNED

NOTHING

THINGS

AND I'VE BEEN SHIRKING MY DANCING BATTLES.

AND HAVEN'T ENTERED ANY CLUBS.

I'M SAGELY MEETING ATTENDANCE MINIMUMS.

I HAVEN'T ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING



TO THE  
NEXT  
GRADE.

BUT,

YOU'RE  
THE ONLY  
REASON  
I'M  
MOVING  
ON,



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH



STOP

"I DIDN'T  
ACCOMPLISH  
ANYTHING"

DON'T  
SAY  
STUFF  
LIKE





I  
WISH  
HE'D  
JUST  
STOP.

THICKSKINNED  
AND  
STRAIGHTFORWARD

HE'S  
ALWAYS  
BEEN  
THIS  
WAY,

CAN'T  
HANDLE  
IT

I  
JUST

SAYING  
THAT  
CRAP  
OUT  
OF  
THE  
BLUE



THE  
THIRD  
ROUND  
OF  
THE  
SHISHIOU  
TITLE  
MATCH,  
DAY  
2  
...

FLASH



SO  
IN  
MARCH,  
MY  
SHORT  
SUMMER  
VACATION  
BEGAN.

BUT  
SHIMADA'S  
GOT  
MORE  
TIME  
REMAINING  
...

SHIMADA

THIS IS  
BAD,  
HIS  
GAME'S  
GETTING  
WORSE  
AND  
WORSE  
...



IF I  
CAN  
JUST  
AVOID  
LOSING  
EVERY  
MATCH  
...



I CAN ONLY  
LOSE ONE  
MORE  
GAME, IT'S  
ALREADY  
DO-OR DIE  
...





Don't you have snacks? Gummy candies? Cookies?

You have instant ramen with hot tea, duh!

For an adult, I'd make tea, but what do I make for a middle schooler and a kindergardener?

I'VE NEVER HAD GUESTS, WHAT DO I GET THEM?

LWA ...

HOLD ON,

LET ME GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK ...

peach turn

Total silence ...



↑  
BUTTER  
TOAST  
COFFEE



IT WAS REALLY DELICIOUS, THANK YOU



HERE'S YOUR BOX ...

LWA,



YOU REALLY ATE IT ALL?

KIRIYAMA,

LWA, I REALLY LIKED THE WASABI

YEAH, I ATE IT!

Y-

WOUND UP EATING ALL BUT 3 PIECES ...



SHE

nom nom





SHE'S  
NOT A  
WITCH.

SHE'S

MY

SHE'S  
NOT.

NO.

SISTER.

BUT IT'S OK,  
YOU FIGHT  
WITH YOUR  
SISTERS  
SOMETIMES  
TOO, RIGHT?

WE'RE  
SIBLINGS  
SO WE  
FIGHT A  
LOT.

YEAH.

YOUR  
SISTER?

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

YUP

BUT  
THEY  
GET  
ALONG  
REALLY  
WELL!

OH YEAH! NOW  
THAT YOU MENTION  
IT HINA AND AKARI  
FIGHT SOMETIMES  
SO MUCH THAT  
SHE MAKES AKARI  
CRY!!



AH, I'M SO GLAD,  
SUCH A RELIEF.  
JUST A BIT OF A  
SIBLING SQUABBLE.

THAT GIRL  
WAS RUI'S  
SISTER.

WE FIGURED  
IT OUT  
AKARI,

WE'RE  
BACK.

WANNA  
WATCH  
POCKET  
SQUIRREL  
PROFESSOR  
?

I SEE, REL...

So,

THESE TWO LIVED  
UNDER THE SAME  
ROOF FOR A  
DOZEN YEARS,

AND YET

AT THE TIME  
THE TWO OF  
THEM DIDN'T  
SEEM LIKE  
SIBLINGS  
WHATSOEVER

BUT  
HINA

THIS IS A  
MUCH  
WORSE  
SITUATION.

HINA



YOU'VE LEFT  
THEIR HOUSE  
COMPLETELY

GAME 3  
OF THE  
SHISHIOU  
TITLE  
MATCH

8-DAN  
SHIMADA  
KAI  
LOSES  
AFTER  
130  
MOVES

AND  
IT  
TURNED  
5PM,  
AND  
FROM  
SOMEWHERE  
IN  
TOWN  
A  
FAMILIAR  
SONG  
DRIFTED  
IN:

THAT  
SONG,

TODAY,  
FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME,

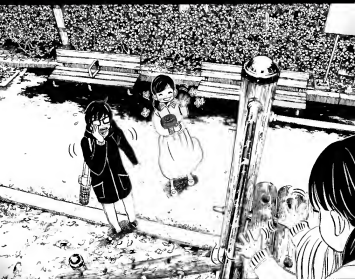
MADE  
ME  
REALIZE  
WHERE  
MY  
"HOME"  
IS.

So.... That was the final chapter from me...the good folks at BWYS are continuing the series. No point in overlapping....

I commissioned the scanlation of the chapters, which was surprisingly hard since most people doing scanlations are doing hentai or their websites are beyond sketchy...

So if you're interested in getting something from Japanese to English, I recommend

<http://missdream.org/hire-miss-dream>



Chapter 39

*The night passes*

THERE  
WERE NO  
BOYS MY  
OWN AGE,  
I GREW  
UP NEVER  
PLAYING  
SOCCER  
OR  
BASEBALL  
(NOT  
ENOUGH  
PEOPLE)

THERE  
WERE  
MORE  
COWS AND  
CHICKENS  
THAN  
PEOPLE.  
AND THE  
PEOPLE  
THAT  
WERE  
THERE  
WERE ALL  
OLD  
PEOPLE.

THE PLACE  
I GREW UP  
WAS A  
VILLAGE IN  
THE  
NORTHEAST,  
CONSTANTLY  
UNDER A  
SNOW.

A SHOGI BOARD  
HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
A NATURAL PART  
OF MY LIFE, SINCE  
I WAS A BABY.



THIS PIECE  
IS THE  
KING, AND  
THIS IS THE  
GOLD  
GENERAL.



THE OLD  
MEN IN THE  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD  
TAUGHT ME  
TO PLAY  
SHOGI.



BUT, EVEN  
AFTER I  
GREW  
ACCUSTOMED  
TO THAT  
LIFE, THERE  
WAS THAT  
ONE WINTER  
DAY

MY PLAYTIME  
WAS SPENT  
COLLECTING  
BUGS,  
PLAYING  
VIDEO  
GAMES, AND  
READING.



I WAS  
ALLOWED  
TO  
FLUNG  
INTO IT  
AS DEEPLY  
AS I  
LIKED.



THERE  
WAS  
ALWAYS  
SOMETHING  
NEW NO  
MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
I PLAYED.



BUT  
SHOGI

GAMES,  
COMICS,  
BOOKS,  
THEY ALL  
CAME TO  
AN END  
RIGHT  
AWAY,



THROUGH THE  
INTRODUCTION OF  
THE HALL OWNER,  
I BECAME A STUDENT  
OF MASTER OUCHI  
AND IT WAS DECIDED  
I WOULD  
PARTICIPATE IN THE  
Tokyo  
Olympic.

WOW

AND  
THERE MY  
GAME GOT  
BETTER  
AND  
BETTER.

BY MY THIRD  
YEAR IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, I BEGAN  
TAKING A BUS TO  
ATTEND A LOCAL  
SHOGI HALL.

THIS  
KID IS  
SOOOO.

BY THE TIME  
I WAS A 3RD  
YEAR IN  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL, I  
COULD BEAT  
ANY OF THE  
OLD GUYS IN  
TOWN.



THE MEN  
OF THE  
VILLAGE,  
LITTLE BY  
LITTLE  
PUT  
THEIR  
FAITH IN  
ME.

KAI IS AMAZING!

IT COULD VERY BE  
THE NEXT AELON  
WILL COME OUT OF  
THIS SLEEPY LITTLE  
VILLAGE!



AND IN  
WINTER I'D  
TEND TO  
THE  
HORSEHOE,  
COWS AND  
SUCH.

I WOULD  
WORK AS A  
FARMHAND,  
FIXING THE  
APPLIES AND  
FENCES, UP  
UNTIL THE  
FALL.

I WENT TO SHOGI  
TOURNAMENTS  
TWICE A MONTH.

TO RAISE THE  
FUNDS TO  
CONTINUE PLAYING.

AS A MIDDLE  
SCHOOLER  
TOKYO FEEL  
SEEMED LIKE  
A FAR OFF  
PLACE.



THE  
OF THE  
THE  
CONTRIBUTION.

AND THE  
CONTRIBUTION  
OF MY SHOGI  
CLUB.

AND THE  
CONTRIBUTION  
OF THE  
OLD MAN.

THROUGH MY  
TRAINING,

THROUGH THE  
AND THE  
THE





EVEN  
SO  
THE  
OLD  
MEN  
FROM  
MY  
VILLAGE

CONTINUED  
TO  
SUPPORT  
ME.



I  
HAD  
GONE  
FROM  
A BIG  
FISH  
IN A  
SMALL  
POND,  
TO A  
SMALL  
FISH  
IN A  
SEA  
OF  
SHARKS.



I WAS  
STUCK  
IN  
THEM  
FOR  
THREE  
YEARS.

THE  
3-PART  
LEAGUE  
WAS A  
DEN OF  
OGRES  
JUST  
LIKE  
I'D  
HEARD.



AT  
ABOUT  
THAT  
TIME  
I  
STARTED  
NEEDING  
THESE.



I  
COULDN'T  
TELL  
ANY  
MORE.



OR  
WAS  
IT  
BOTH?



WAS THE  
CREAKING  
COMING  
FROM THE  
SEAT, OR  
MY OWN  
CHEST?



I  
BEGAN  
TO  
WONDER.



TRAVELING  
ONWARD  
INTO  
THE  
INFINITE  
NIGHT  
ROAD.



THE  
SQUEAKING  
CREAKING  
SEAT  
ON  
THE  
NIGHT  
BUS.



I DIDN'T  
WANT  
THE  
SUPPORT  
EVERYONE  
HAD  
GIVEN  
TO ME,  
TO GO  
TO  
WASTE.



BUT



LIKE A  
NIGHTMARE  
I COULDN'T  
ESCAPE  
FROM.



IT  
FOLLOWED  
ME  
WHEREVER  
I WENT



THAT  
PAIN

Is  
PROBABLY

Ow



HAVE  
YOU  
HAD  
LUNCH  
YET?

UH,

NO

JUST  
SOME  
NATTO  
CARBIES

I'M  
ON  
SUMMER  
BREAK  
NOW,

I'M  
HAPPY  
TO  
DO  
IT,

SORRY,  
GIVE  
ME  
A  
SECOND.

OH,

USUAL,

OH  
NO  
PLEASE,  
DON'T  
GET  
UP.

I  
BOUGHT  
A  
LOT  
OF  
STUFF,  
I  
WAS  
JUST  
PUTTING  
IT  
AWAY  
IN  
THE  
FRIDGE.





MY STOMACH'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.

YEAH...

BUT IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT?

IT NEVER HURTS WHEN I'M ACTUALLY PLAYING THE GAME.

UM... IS THAT REALLY TRUE?



OH? BUT WHY?

HEY SHAGADA.

I'M GONNA HEAD HOME NOW.

SHOULDN'T YOU BE FOCUSING YOUR ATTENTION ON FEELING BETTER? IF YOU KEEP PUSHING YOURSELF...

THE 4TH GAME IS IN 5 DAYS TIME.



**4-6 BISHOP ?!**

NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT "THIS WILL WORK" AS I MADE MY MOVES, I STILL WOUND UP GETTING TRAPPED BY HIM.

I PLAYED TRYING NOT TO LAND MYSELF IN ANY SEALED MOVE SITUATIONS, BUT THE GAME TOOK ITS NATURAL COURSE.

BUT THIS LAST WATCH...

YEAH

IT HAS BEEN TROUBLING ME.



HE  
COULD HAVE  
FINISHED ME  
OFF BEFORE  
LUNCHTIME?

THAT'S  
TOTALLY  
TERRIBLE!  
WHICH  
MEANS...

BUT I  
COMPLETELY  
OVERLOOKED  
THE BISHOP  
ON 4-8!

I THOUGHT  
THE G-S  
PAWN  
SHOULD  
TAKE THE  
SAME  
SILVER,  
THEN THE  
ROOK ON  
5-5 TO THE  
LANCE ON  
6-6.

NOT THE  
G-S,  
SILVER!  
IT WAS  
THE  
SAME  
SILVER!

YOU  
SHOULD BE  
RESTING  
NOW.

YEAH I  
KNEW IT.

WAIT,  
WHAT WAS  
I JUST  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

YEAH?  
LIM,  
HUH?

SO I  
JUST  
WOUND  
UP  
TOSSING  
AND  
TURNING  
ALL  
NIGHT,  
LAND...

AND IT  
MADE MY  
STOMACH  
START  
THESE  
STABBING  
PAINS...

SO THEN  
IT GOT TO BE  
THREE O'CLOCK  
IN THE MORNING  
LIKE THAT.  
THERE ANY  
WAY I CAN  
HOLD OUT  
AGAINST THIS  
GUY?



YOU'RE NOT  
LISTENING AT  
ALL, ARE  
YOU?!

SO, I'LL PLAY A  
STATIC ROOK  
OPENING, AND  
YOU'LL USE A  
RANGING ROOK  
THEN?

I  
GOT  
IT.

YEAH.  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

# March Lion●





HE SAID.

REMEMBER

IT GIVES ME A  
WRENCHING IN  
MY STOMACH

"3-7  
SILVER

WHEN SOYA  
SAW THE  
SILVER ON  
3-7, WHEN  
WE WERE IN  
THE WAITING  
ROOM,

HE SAID  
THE SAME  
THING

LIKE  
HOW YOU  
FLEXIBLY  
MOVE YOUR  
GAME FROM  
OFFENSE TO  
DEFENSE

OR YOUR  
JUDGEMENT ON  
WHEN IT'S GOOD  
TO PRESS YOUR  
OPPONENT...

OF  
COURSE,  
YOU BOTH  
HAVE ALL-  
AROUNDER  
PLAYING  
STYLES  
TOO.

IF I  
HAD TO  
CALL IT  
SOMETHING,  
YOU SHARE  
THE SAME  
OPINIONS,  
MAYBE?

I DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
TO EXPLAIN  
WHY

YOU TWO  
ARE ALIKE,  
KINDA.

BUT  
I THINK  
IT'S VERY  
HELPFUL.

I DON'T  
THINK IT'S  
QUITE  
ENOUGH TO  
GET  
WHERE I  
NEED TO  
BE.

I CAN  
GRASP MORE  
OF HOW SOYA  
PLAYS HIS  
GAME,  
I THINK.

WHEN  
YOU SIT  
ACROSS FROM  
ME AND PLAY  
IN YOUR OWN  
STYLE

SO





"I CAN'T  
CLOSE THE  
DISTANCE."

THOUGH  
I SAY

**RUSHING  
ME TO  
TURN  
PRO,  
GLIDING  
ME  
THROUGH  
MY  
BANKING  
BATTLES.**

I'M  
NOT  
SAYING

THAT'S  
A REASON  
I CAN'T  
ADVANCE.

BEING  
THAT HE  
WAS THE  
SAME AGE  
SOYA WAS  
THE WIND IN  
MY SAILS  
ENCOURAGING  
ME TO  
IMPROVE.

IN HIS  
OWN  
ABILITY.

NO MATTER  
HOW HIGH  
HE RISES, HE  
NEVER  
BECOMES  
OVERCONFIDENT

*I WAS  
ALWAYS  
WATCHING*

NO  
MATTER HOW  
FAR I GO  
I CAN'T  
CLOSE THE  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN US.





I  
EARNED THE  
RIGHT TO  
CHALLENGE  
HIM.

I CAN'T  
GO DOWN  
WITHOUT  
PUTTING UP  
A FIGHT.

THAT  
WOULD BE  
THE ONE  
THING.

I COULDN'T  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF  
FOR.

I MEAN, NOT  
AS LONG AS  
THEY'VE GOT

THAT RIDICULOUS  
BANNER HANGING IN  
THE TRAIN STATION  
OF MY HOME TOWN.

Tendou City - Japan Shogi Federation

Tendou: The Home of Shogi Supports Its New Grand Master!



I'M THE  
ONLY PERSON  
FROM YAMAGATA  
ABOVE B-RANK.

RIGHT  
NOW.

BUT, IT'S  
NOT LIKE I'M  
RESIGNED TO  
DEFEAT EITHER...

NOT YET.



I'VE GOT TO  
DO THIS.

SO,



I CAN'T  
LET THEM  
DOWN.

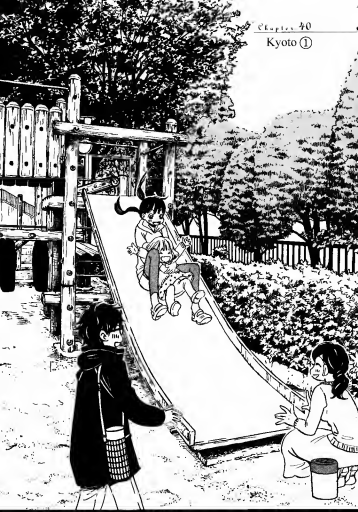
HANGING IN  
THE SAME  
PLACE.

RIGHT  
WHERE  
IT IS

TO KEEP  
THAT  
BANNER

**Tendou City - Japan Shogi Federation**  
**Tendou: The Home of Shogi Supports Its New Grand Master!**









DOUBT AND  
REGRET  
SWIRLED  
AROUND  
ME...

NO MATTER HOW  
MANY TIMES I  
INSISTED, HE  
WOULDN'T REST  
AS HE SHOULD  
HAVE.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
HIS  
FACE  
TURNED  
SO PALE,



ON  
THE  
RIGHT

FACING  
THE  
KYOTO  
TOWER.

OH  
DEAR.

LET'S  
SEE

WHERE  
ARE THE  
TAXIS  
PARKED?



1051

YES  
SIR.

TAKE US  
TO THE 2ND  
KYOTO HOTEL,  
PLEASE.





HEEEY!  
SHIMADA!

Shishio  
Title Match  
4th Round

sponsored by

THEY'RE  
HERE!



YOU'LL  
NEVER GET  
A TITLE AT  
THIS RATE!

IS YOUR  
STOMACH  
GONNA KEEP  
YOU FROM  
PLAYING?

STOMACH  
AGAIN?

SORRY FOR  
MAKING YOU  
WORRY.

OH  
HIM,  
HIM!

OH HEY  
KIRIYAMA,  
GOOD TO  
SEE YOU  
HERE~

GUHMAN,  
CAN YOU STOP  
YELLING EACH  
OTHER'S NAMES?  
THAT'S IT!

YEAH...  
SORRY...

THAT THING'S  
A PIECE OF  
JUNK!

HEY,  
SHOW  
THEM  
TO HIS  
ROOM!

WELL, GO TO  
YOUR ROOM  
AND REST UP  
UNTIL THE NIGHT  
BEFORE THE  
MATCH.











# March Lion ●



BESIDES,  
SOYA'S THE ONE  
EVERYONE'S  
HERE TO SEE!

☆

NO  
I'M NOT WORRIES!!  
ABOUT TO  
SCOLD  
YOU OR  
ANYTHING.

☆

I'M  
SORRY

HEY!

☆

GOOD  
WORK  
FINISHING  
YOUR  
DUTIES

IN  
PREPARATION  
FOR  
TOMORROW  
I'M GONNA-

Oh  
my  
god!

CHAIR  
MAN!!

!?

RIGHT?  
YOU'D NEVER  
GUESS  
YOU'RE THE  
SAME AGE!

IT IS A BIT  
ANNOYING,  
SEIYA'S ALWAYS  
GLISTENING, AND  
FULL OF  
ENERGY...

AFTER THE  
INTRODUCTIONS, IT  
BECOMES THE  
"LET'S FAWN OVER  
SOYA" SHOW.

YEAH.

☆

☆

ALWAYS.

RIGHT?

YOU'VE  
ALWAYS  
BEEN IN THE  
BACKGROUND  
COMPARED  
TO HIM.

WELL,  
YOU DON'T  
REALLY  
STAND OUT  
HERE OR  
ANYPLACE  
FOR THAT  
MATTER!

Oh...  
As the  
chairman  
said...

So really...

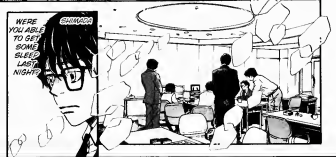
OH, RIGHT,  
KIRIYAMA.

HE'S  
GOTTA  
DO THE  
HARD  
PART.

I TOLD HIM  
"IT'S UP TO  
YOU FROM  
HERE"







WHAT TO  
DO HERE?

SINCE  
HE WASN'T  
PUSHING  
HIMSELF INTO  
PRACTICE WITH  
ME, HE SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
RESTING,  
BUT...

I WENT  
AND  
EARNED  
THE  
RIGHT TO  
CHALLENGE  
HIM.

I CAN'T  
PLAY A  
LOLNEY  
GAME

I COULDN'T  
FORGIVE  
MYSELF...

I WONDER  
IF HIS  
STOMACH  
IS STILL  
HURTING  
HIM?

HIS FACE  
ISN'T  
"REVEALING"  
ANYTHING...



EVEN IF I WORRY ABOUT IT

ONCE THE CURTAIN FALLS  
ON THIS STRUGGLE,

ONCE IT'S DOWN  
NO ONE CAN RAISE IT AGAIN.







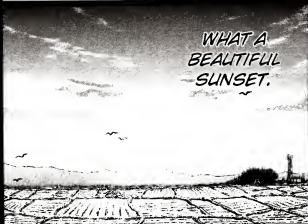
# March Lion

March Lion is a film by  
Celine Sciamma

AH...



WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
SUNSET.



FOR SOME  
REASON,  
IT FELT SO  
FAMILIAR,  
SO I  
STOOD  
THERE  
AND  
WORKED  
THE  
FIELD.



I REALIZED  
I WAS  
DREAMING  
RIGHT  
AWAY.

WHEN I CAME TO  
MY SENSES, I  
WAS STANDING  
WITH A HOE IN  
MY HAND.



I SEE, I  
MUST  
HAVE  
NEVER  
ENTERED  
THE 3RD  
LEAGUE  
AND  
RETURNED  
HOME...

I'M  
LIVING  
AS IF I  
NEVER  
LEFT.

I  
SEE.

THAT'S  
THE  
WOMAN  
I LOVED  
FIVE  
YEARS  
AGO.

SOMEONE'S  
CALLING ME.

OH



THE HOUSE  
IS AGLOW.



KAY'S  
REALLY  
GOOD

NO ONE  
IN TOWN  
HOLDS A  
CANDLE  
TO HIM  
ANYMORE

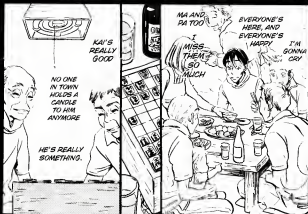
HE'S REALLY  
SOMETHING.

MA AND  
PA TOO

I  
MISS  
THEM  
SO  
MUCH

EVERYONE'S  
HERE, AND  
EVERYONE'S  
HAPPY

I'M  
GONNA  
CRY



I'M  
SORRY  
EVERYONE  
YOU'VE  
ALL

DAD,  
GRANPA,

EVERYONE,

BEEN  
CHEERING  
FOR ME  
FOR SO  
LONG...

EVEN IF YOU  
COULDN'T  
GO PRO,

IT'S  
ALRIGHT

KAI

IF YOU  
CAN LIVE  
LIFE WITH ALL  
YOUR MIGHT,  
YOU'VE LIVED  
WELL.

BUT

EVERYONE  
SEARCHES  
FOR  
WHEREVER  
THEY ARE.

IT'S  
SOMETHING

SO  
LONG  
AS  
YOU'RE  
HAPPY.

KAI

THAT'S  
ALL YOU  
NEED TO  
DO



EVEN IN MY DREAM,



IT WAS SHOGI THAT MADE ME HAPPY.

AND IT WAS THE REGRET OF

"I WANTED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER"



THAT CAUSED PAIN IN MY STOMACH.



AND THE VERSION  
OF ME WHO PUT  
EVERYTHING ON THE  
LINE TO COME THIS  
FAR, TO STARE AT A  
FOUR GAME LOSS.

THE VERSION OF  
ME WHO DIDN'T  
TURN PRO, AND  
WENT BACK HOME  
TO THE FARM.



WHICH ONE  
IS IN A  
NIGHTMARE?

LET'S GET  
TO THE  
BITTER  
END, AND  
FIND OUT.

SHIMADA PUT  
UP A FAIR  
RESISTANCE

ON DAY  
ONE,  
ALTHOUGH  
HE FAILED  
TO BREAK  
SOYA'S  
SOLID  
DEFENSE.

SECOND DAY  
OF THE  
SHISHIOJI  
TOURNAMENT



MORE THAN  
"ATTACKING"  
IT FEELS  
MORE LIKE

OH  
MAN

FOR A  
B-DAN,  
ISN'T USING  
THE 7-3  
KNIGHT  
OVERDOING  
IT?

HE'S KINDA  
"RUSHING"  
IT.

Dining  
hall  
Shuzan



AND  
THEN

JUST AS  
SHIMADA  
WAS ABOUT  
TO ATTACK  
WITH HIS  
KNIGHT ON  
7-3, THE TIME  
CAME FOR  
THE LUNCH  
BREAK.



SHIMADA'S  
PLAYING  
A GREAT  
GAME,  
HE'S  
JUST  
GOT  
SOYA  
AS AN  
OPPONENT  
IS ALL.

HIS  
HEALTH  
ISN'T  
GREAT,  
BUT  
STILL...

IS HE  
TRYING TO  
MAKE SURE  
THE GAME  
DOESN'T  
DRAG OUT?

OH

YES  
PLEASE

WOULD  
YOU  
LIKE  
SOME  
MISO  
SOUP?

BUT HE'S NOT  
RUSHING, HE'S AS  
COMPOSED AS  
ALWAYS, THAT'S  
WHAT I SEE.

THE OPINION IN  
THE WAITING  
ROOM IS  
CONSISTANTLY  
ONE SIDED IN  
FAVOR OF  
SOYA.

YAMA  
GATA'S  
DO FAE  
AWAY  
HOMAY

SO  
SHIMADA  
WON'T  
GET TO  
PLAY THE  
MATCH IN  
HIS HOME  
TOWN.  
HUH?

BUT IT'S SHAPING UP TO LOOK LIKE A 4-GAME SHUTOUT VICTORY FOR BOYD.

BUT  
SHIMADA'S  
FACING  
DOWN GRAND  
MASTER SOYA,  
AND PLAYING  
A FINELY  
POINTED  
GAME.

THE  
BATTLE OF  
NERVES IS  
STILL  
GOING.

WHY DIDN'T KIRIYAMA!!  
YOU TELL ME  
SHIMADA'S  
IN BAD  
HEALTH? 北

HE'S  
NOT  
DOING  
BAD AT  
ALL.

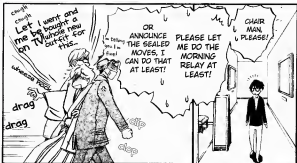


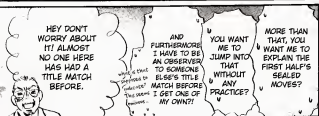


YEAH,  
I KNOW.

ALL  
THE WAY  
TO HIS  
HOUSE

I'LL  
SEE  
HIM





ONCE  
AGAIN ON  
THE  
SECOND  
DAY OF  
THE MATCH



THE  
FIRST  
SEALED  
MOVE

WAS THE  
SILVER  
GENERAL  
ON 6-6

REVEAL

WAS THE  
SILVER  
GENERAL  
ON 6-6

NOW  
THEM.

IT'S SO  
OVER THE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
THIS FAR.

THE  
CURTAIN  
ROSE

THEN

**KIRYAMA**  
The

NOW THEN,  
NOW WE WILL  
BEGIN THE  
EXPLANATION OF  
THE 4TH ROUND  
OF THE SHISHIOLU  
TOURNAMENT  
ON THE  
DEMONSTRATION  
BOARD.

**Yay!**

CLAP

**CLAMP**

CLAP

# FLAIR

CLAP

Yay

UNFORTU-  
NATELY,  
S-DAN  
TSUJII  
INFECTED  
HIM WITH  
INFLUENZA,  
AND HE  
CAN'T BE  
HERE.

NOW TO  
PROVIDE  
COUNTER-  
POINT, WE  
WERE  
SCHEDULED  
TO HAVE  
S-DAN  
SAHARA  
HERE

HOLDER  
OF THE  
GIRYLIU  
TITLE,  
FUJIMOTO  
RAIDOU!

NOW

TO  
PROVIDE  
A BREAK-  
DOWN,  
WE HAVE  
OUR  
SPECIAL  
GUEST

S-DAN  
KIRIYAMA  
REI!

IN  
CONSIDERATION  
TO PROVIDE  
YOU ALL WITH  
THE BEST  
COMMENTARY  
WE HAVE  
ARRANGED A  
SUBSTITUTE

H-HELLO  
EVERYONE,  
I'LL DO MY  
BEST.

I REALLY DON'T  
THINK I'M IN A  
POSITION TO  
COMPARE MYSELF  
TO MY SENIORS  
RIGHT NOW

OH

LIM

L...

HE WENT  
ON TO BECOME  
GRAND MASTER.  
SOME THINK YOU  
MAY REPRESENT  
THE "EGG WHICH  
WILL HATCH INTO  
OUR NEXT GRAND  
MASTER."

ANOTHER  
PERSON  
WHO COMES  
TO MIND  
WHEN YOU  
SAY "MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
PRO" IS OUR  
CURRENT  
GRAND  
MASTER  
SOYA.

S-DAN  
KIRIYAMA IS,  
AS WE ALL  
KNOW, ONLY  
THE 5TH  
PERSON IN  
HISTORY TO  
BECOME A  
PROFESSIONAL  
SHOJI PLAYER  
OUT OF MIDDLE  
SCHOOL.

KEEPING  
THAT IN  
MIND

I'll  
say.

So nervous  
he's using both hands.

OVER-  
WHELMING  
PRESENCE  
CLAP  
CLAP  
CLAP  
CLAP

Future  
grand  
master  
?

Why does  
everyone think  
debuting  
in middle  
school is so  
praiseworthy?

Further  
more,  
what's  
wrong  
with  
you  
all?

have  
you  
lost  
your  
will?

I can't  
understand.



but I know  
Japanese people  
take the truth to  
be stated so  
bluntly so let me  
make my words  
more flattery for  
you

A goal is fine,  
but what of one's  
desire? That  
means the same  
thing, does it not?

You've become  
more interested in  
the goal of someone  
becoming a  
professional player  
than the goal of  
earning the right to  
call themselves  
grand master! It  
sickens me.

harp  
harp

nag

nag

Whether he  
went pro in  
middle  
school or  
not,

he shot up to  
C-1, but  
hasn't moved  
since. There's  
no point in  
asking him.

I made my  
debut in my  
first year of  
high school, but  
by the time I  
was his age, I  
was ranked  
B-2

If you're  
confused as to  
what I'm saying,  
I mean to say  
"I'm better than  
he is."

I won't  
back down  
the slightest  
bit!!

But I'll knock  
him off his  
perch and  
become grand  
master myself!

Thanks  
to that  
bastard,  
I've been  
overlooked.

Further-  
more,  
that is  
my goal!

Dumbfounded

Whaaat?

Gleam...

Nodding

Yeah!



Furthermore,  
once I become  
grand master,  
I will not  
hand over the  
title until the  
day I die!

I CAN'T DO  
IT! I'LL  
NEVER BE  
A-RANK!!

Waaah

I'M  
PETRIFIED...

PG:

SHIMADA YOU PLAY WITH GUYS  
LIKE THIS EVERY DAY, AND YOU  
GET BY WITH JUST SOME  
STOMACH PAIN? YOU'RE A  
MONSTER IN YOUR OWN RIGHT.

That is  
all!!

Chapter 51 (END)

## The Study of Professional Shogi Yields Unexpected Results?!

The modern shogi player watches matches live, to not only study the game being played, but to also explain to reporters what is happening. In the waiting room of the fourth floor of the Tokyo Shogi association hall, it often gets very crowded with players on the day of a important match. On days of title matches that room is devoted to reporters, a handful of players are allowed to remain as witnesses and provide commentary, to applaud, and of course to study the game being played. Now then, is observing a game live even something worth doing? Compared to the other ways of observing a game, it takes quite a bit longer, but then again the time needed to consider each move is long too.

When watching players near your own level it's very difficult to contain comments like "Don't do that" or "that's a bad move" as you see them move their pieces. Of course we know the perfect game of shogi or for that matter shogi player.. doesn't exist. Though the tension is there, the air in the group observing is much more jocular. And no matter how straight laced you are, everyone has their limits. Furthermore, needless to say, Shogi is a game which can evolve many ways. If you ask someone on a board whether move A, B, or C is the correct one, often they will be unable to tell you which move is best, even if the person you ask is the person who was playing. The opinion of the people in the waiting room during this time, is wrong most of the time. Other times the opinion is split, or all over the place. Actually the latter is what usually happens. But the reporters there need to report what the opinion of the room is, in that case they ask the highest ranked player there, and their opinion becomes the "opinion of the room."

In the early stages of the game since there are so many possible moves, that's when they'll ask amateurs for "what they would do." It's a common practice. Shogi is a game with it's troublesome areas. We call that person the "grand amateur" and extol them with applause. It's only towards the end of the game that the veteran players begin to make their predictions, and by that time they usually wind up being accurate. However the truly important and spectacular moves have gone unnoticed by the players in the waiting room observing.





# March Lion

March狮子の王  
March the Lion King





IT FEELS  
LIKE IT'S  
TELLING ME

TO  
LIVE!

clack

2-8  
ROOK,  
STILL  
TRYING  
TO END  
IT.

7-8  
SILVER

6-7  
SILVER.  
HE'S  
SAYING  
"LET'S  
END  
THIS"

clack

HOW  
LONG  
CAN  
HE STAY  
ON THE  
ATTACK?

HIS OWN  
KING'S IN  
DANGER

IF HE  
LETS  
UP HIS  
ATTACK,  
THIS  
WILL BE  
OVER IN  
MOMENTS.

THAT'S  
RECKLESS

HE'S  
GOING  
WITH THE  
PAWN ON  
5-7?!





NO HE  
WONT.

NO...  
BUT CAN  
HE MAKE  
IT?!

AT THIS  
RATE,  
SHIMADA'S  
GONNA BE  
SHOT FULL  
OF HOLES!

SOYA  
WILL MOVE  
HIS ROOK  
TO 7-1.

BUT COME  
ON, HIS  
OPPONENT  
IS SOYA!



FURTHER-  
MORE

THE GAME IS  
NOW OVER-  
WHELMINGLY  
IN SOYA'S  
FAVOR!!

WITH  
JUST HIS  
ROOK AND  
PAWN?!

HE  
DROVE  
HIM  
OFF?!

*Amo*



THIS  
MATCH IS  
OVER.

I'M OFF  
TO THE  
WAITING  
ROOM.



AND  
SOYA'S  
ASSAULT  
BEGAN.



SHIMADA'S  
ADVANCE  
WAS  
STOPPED



IT'S  
SNOWING

OH  
MY...



MY  
EYES ARE  
GETTING  
BLURRED  
BY THE  
DAZZLING  
DARKNESS.



IT'S UNRELENTING  
I'M BEING BURIED



NO MATTER  
HOW I  
STRUGGLE,

SO BEAUTIFUL,  
IT STEALS MY  
HEART AWAY

SILENT AND  
OVERWHELMING...

Um...

PLEASE  
WAIT!

WAIT!





WITH THE BOARD THIS WAY, I DON'T THINK HE'S LOST YET.

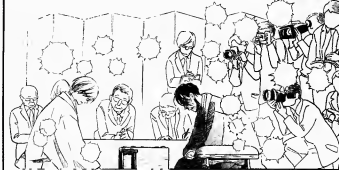
*THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING...*

*SOMETHING I...*

*SOMETHING THAT I CAN...*











I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT...



take

WITH JUST  
THAT ONE  
MOVE

SOYA'S KING...  
ISN'T THIS  
CHECKMATE?

HOLD  
ON...



THIS  
DARKNESS  
ROBES  
THE FLOOR  
AROUND ME

WAIT.  
HOLD ON

THAT  
MEANS...

THAT  
BISHOP  
ON 7-9

THE  
KING  
ON 2-4  
ISN'T  
THERE  
ANY  
MORE?

ISN'T  
THE  
KING  
GONE?



SOYA

*IT'S LIKE  
THE WORLD*

*TOOK ON  
A WHOLE  
DIFFERENT  
SHAPE*



YOU

MADE ME  
OVERCONFIDENT.

*A HOPE THAT  
I SHOULD HAVE  
SEEN CAME  
CRASHING  
THROUGH.*

*IN  
JUST  
THAT  
ONE  
MOVE*





.....

IT WAS  
BEAUTIFUL  
TOO...

AND  
THIS

THE SHISHIOW  
TOURNAMENT CAME  
TO A CLOSE, WITH  
SHIMADA SUFFERING  
FOUR CONSECUTIVE  
DEFEATS...



THAT'S RIGHT



— I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING

AS ONES WHO FACE DOWN STORMS

WANDERING  
WITHOUT  
END.

OURS IS A  
WORLD OF  
PEOPLE WHO  
STAND UP  
AND KEEP  
GOING.

NO MATTER HOW MANY  
TIMES YOU FALL,  
YOU PICK UP THE  
SCATTERED PIECES  
OF YOURSELF AND  
KEEP GOING

THIS WAS

WHY DID  
YOU DO  
IT?!

I'LL  
NEVER  
ASK  
HIM

SO  
THAT'S WHY  
WITH AN  
EXHAUSTED  
FACE LIKE  
THAT ONE.

JUST ONE ESPECIALLY BAD STORM.



THE  
ANSWER  
IS WITHIN  
THAT  
STORM

I CAN ONLY  
POSE THAT  
QUESTION  
TO MYSELF

"You made me overconfident!" The one move that shook the room.

|                                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
|                                               | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |             |
| Placed<br>during this<br>way are<br>Shimada's | 皇 | 飛 |   |   | 銀 | 金 | 将 | 皇 | 一 | Placed      |
|                                               | と |   |   |   | 零 | 角 | 適 | 王 | 二 | During this |
|                                               | 卒 |   | 香 |   | 零 |   | 卒 | 卒 | 三 | way are     |
|                                               |   |   |   |   |   |   | 卒 |   | 四 | Soya's      |
| has a<br>Bishop<br>and Pawn<br>in reserve     |   |   |   | 歩 |   | 歩 |   | 歩 | 五 | has a       |
|                                               |   |   |   |   | 銀 |   |   |   | 六 | Silver,     |
|                                               | 歩 | 歩 | 零 |   |   | 歩 |   | 歩 | 七 | Knight,     |
|                                               |   | 王 | 歩 |   |   |   | 歩 | 卒 | 八 | and         |
|                                               | 香 | 桂 |   |   |   |   | 桂 | 香 | 九 | 8 Pawns     |

The decisive fourth round of the Shusho tournament, with 8-dan Shimada vs Grand Master Soya. In one spectacular move of his bishop the entire game turned on its head. Soya delivers that cool line, "You made me overconfident." I'd like to say that just once in a cool tone like that, but even now if I try saying it, my voice breaks.

Now, the board above is the match at the time of the move. Though Shimada gave up, he had the potential of making the spectacular move of moving his bishop to 7-9. For those out there wondering, "What makes moving his bishop there so significant," I've prepared an explanation. First, when we talk about coordinates, the 7 refers to the 7th column from the right for the defending player. The 9 is the 9th row from the top. Looking at this board, the choice to move the bishop seems obvious, or at least it should to the one playing in Shimada's seat. That player should only be thinking about using this move to win. Understanding the meaning here is difficult so please bear with me here. First things first: Shimada has just one move left to make, next turn Soya will move his bishop to 2-1 and Shimada will lose. He has two options:

- A: Take Soya's Gold on 3-1 with his Silver, or
- B: Take Soya's Bishop on 3-2 with his Gold.

Each of these moves has problems, in Scenario A, the Knight on 2-4 is positioned in anticipation of that move. And with Scenario B, Soya will use some Silver and the game will be done shortly after. By foregoing A and B, and moving his bishop to 7-9 the whole complexion of the game changes. Soya now has two choices: C: Take the Bishop with his King, or D: have his king flee to 9-8. In case C, Shimada follows up by moving his Rook to 6-8, Soya will have to move his king to 8-8, and then he's in the same pinch as Shimada was in Scenario B. In this case, in retaliation to his silver, Shimada will go to 7-8 with his gold, Soya will attempt to use his rook, but Shimada's 7-9 bishop is there to prevent that, and victory is a few moves away. And regarding strategy D, now Soya is stuck in his own Scenario A, when Shimada moves his Silver to 3-1, his Knight on 2-4 may have helped, but with Shimada's Bishop 2-4 is no longer safe. It'll get taken. The game is all but won.

...Did that all make sense? Well, this is just one moment in a game of high level shogi.

# Umino's Happy Friends



## Volume 4

Staaaare

GOLD STARE

IN MY HOUSE,  
THERE'S A  
STALKER  
LIVING  
WITH ME.



THEY SAY THE KEY TO COLORING  
IS "FOCUS"!! YOUR WORK  
COMES OUT AS GOOD AS THE  
CONCENTRATION YOU PUT INTO IT.

**AND YET!!**

WHILE I'M DOING MY BEST TO  
FOCUS THAT DAMN STALKER CAT  
KEEPS CIRCLING HIS NECK AROUND  
IN MY PERIPHERAL VISION...





BUT THAT'S  
WHEN I  
REALIZED



AND OF COURSE A  
WORLD OF THANKS  
TO THE SHOGI  
FEDERATION PLAYERS  
AND MANAGEMENT  
WHO HELPED ME OUT  
SO MUCH AS  
ALWAYS.

SPECIAL  
THANKS

IT WAS  
THROUGH  
THE HELP  
OF MANY  
PEOPLE  
THAT I  
WAS ABLE  
TO FINISH  
ON TIME.



AKANE KONYAMA  
SHIMADA MIDORI!!

MEWADA

GODD WORK  
LITTLE  
GUY!!

SHOGI

finished  
product

SO THAT'S HOW  
OVERCOMING VARIOUS  
TROUBLES, NOT THE  
LEAST OF WHICH WAS  
MY DEAR STALKER CAT,  
I MANAGED TO GET  
VOLUME 4 TO YOU ALL.

SO AS NOT TO BE  
A NUISANCE, I'M  
GONNA GO LAY  
DOWN...

THE NEWS  
CONFERENCES  
ARE ALWAYS  
SO TENSE....



① A PLAYER IN CHARGE OF THE LARGE DEMONSTRATION BOARD GAMES CHARGING INTO THE PLAYING ROOM.

WHAM



THERE'S ACTUALLY A CASE OF FLYING INTO THE PLAYROOM THE WAY KIRINAMA DID IN CHAPTER 42 THAT HAPPENED IN REAL LIFE.

AS FOR SHOSH PLAYERS, THEY DON'T TAKE PICTURES SO MUCH AS Huddle AROUND THE GAME, AND STUDY IT WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND.

I'M NOT SURE IF THEY CAN BE COMPARED, BUT THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO TAKE CAMERA IN HAND AND ATTEMPT TO GET AS CLOSE TO THE ACTION AS THEY CAN.

THE PRESS ARE GIVEN PERMISSION TO ATTEND, BUT IT IS A HOLY PLACE WHERE VICTORY IS DECIDED.

② HE MADE ONE MOVE ON THE BOARD AND DASHED BACK TO THE MAIN HALL.

OH!



AND OF COURSE BENZAKI MARUBU! WHEN I SAW HIM I CRIED OUT GLITS LOUDLY!

I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR HIM.



AND A MASTER WHO WOULD TELL HEARTFELT TALES ABOUT THE OTHER PLAYERS

THE WINNER HAS A SOFT VOICE RIGHT? HE'S ALWAYS HAD A SOFT SPEAKING VOICE SINCE HE WAS A BOY.

LOOK CLOSELY



LET'S MEET AGAIN. I'D BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT MY BOOK.

A MASTER WHO WOULD ALWAYS EXPLAIN THE DEEPER MEANING OF THINGS



AND A YOUNG MASTER WHO LOVED TO POSE FOR PHOTOS.

AND I'LL CONTINUE WRITING MY STORY THIS WAY, ONE CHAPTER AT A TIME.

THESE SMALL MEETINGS DO MORE AND MORE TO BRING LIFE TO MY STORIES.

ALSO THERE WAS ONCE A SHOSH PLAYER WHO WOULD ALWAYS BE EATING CHOCOLATES.

HOW? OH THESE? ALMOND.

WHAT KIND ARE THEY?



FROM HERE ON I'LL BE PART OF MORE PRESS CONFERENCES AND DO EVEN MORE RESEARCH.



- PLEASE FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER

<http://twitter.com/CHICAUMINO> 138

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